

TOP SECRET

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May 21, 1959

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Discussion at the 407th Meeting
of the National Security Council,
Thursday, May 21, 1959

Present at the 407th NSC Meeting were the President of the United States, presiding; the Vice President of the United States; the Acting Secretary of State (C. Douglas Dillon); the Acting Secretary of Defense (Thomas Gates); and the Director, Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization. Also attending the meeting and participating in the Council actions below were the Secretary of the Treasury; the Acting Director, Bureau of the Budget (Elmer Staats); the Secretary of Commerce (Item 1); and the Chairman, Council on Foreign Economic Policy (Item 1). Also attending the meeting were the Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission; the Chairman, Council of Economic Advisers (Item 1); the Special Assistant to the President for Economic Affairs (Item 1); the Assistant Secretary of State for Economic Affairs (Thomas C. Mann) (Item 1); the Director, U.S. Information Agency; General Maxwell D. Taylor, for the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff; the Director of Central Intelligence; the Assistant to the President; the Special Assistants to the President for National Security Affairs, for Science and Technology, and for Security Operations Coordination; Mr. Howard Furnas, Department of State; the White House Staff Secretary; the Assistant White House Staff Secretary; the Executive Secretary, NSC; and the Deputy Executive Secretary, NSC.

There follows a summary of the discussion at the meeting and the main points taken.

1. U.S. POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA
(NSC 5902/1)

Mr. Mann opened his remarks by pointing out that the Latin American republics had got off to a rather late start in terms of their economic development. Like our own South, they had long

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E.O. 12356, SEC. 3.4(b)	
Agency Case	NSC 5902-734
NLE Case	18-8911
By	246 NLE Date 12/1/88

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The National Security Council:

- a. Noted and discussed the reference report on the subject by the Operations Coordinating Board.
- b. Noted that the NSC Planning Board would review U.S. policy on Tunisia, Morocco, Algeria (NSC 5614/1).

5. THE GENEVA CONFERENCE

Mr. Gray stated that Secretary Dillon had agreed to make any pertinent observations he might have on developments at the Foreign Ministers Conference in Geneva.

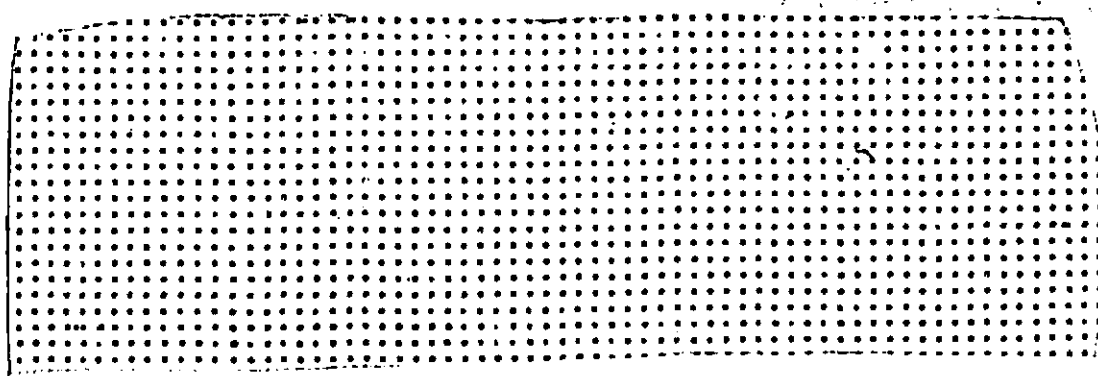
Secretary Dillon observed that all he really wanted to say was that what had been happening at the Conference had been fully reported in the public press and there was practically nothing of any significance which was not known publicly. He added that there was the impression in the State Department that we had got past the preliminary hurdles at Geneva more rapidly than had originally been thought possible. On the other hand, in the course of the last week we had run into the expected Soviet stone wall. Perhaps, thought Secretary Dillon, next week would provide signs of more significant negotiations especially with respect to Berlin. If so, these negotiations would probably be private in character. Meanwhile, the U.K. had been playing very good ball with the U.S.

Secretary Dillon stated that we had had some difficulty with the very large number of representatives of the press in Geneva. In the absence of any very significant real news, the reporters had been reduced to manufacturing stories from very flimsy evidence.

Secretary Dillon added the thought that there had been a couple of fairly significant developments at the private dinner meeting of the Foreign Ministers. In the first place, Secretary Herter had informed Gromyko that the U.S. would never consent to a Summit Meeting under threat. Secondly, there had been a flop in the matter of the nuclear test negotiations. The sudden hope of progress in this area had ended abruptly almost as soon as it had been born. If the Soviets do not retreat from the position recently taken by Khrushchev who had stated a willingness to study only high altitude test suspension, the prospects for any real agreement seemed to Secretary Dillon to be very slim.

The Vice President inquired whether Secretary Dillon meant to convey that the Soviets would not agree to the suggestions on test suspension made in the President's ^{recent} letter to Khrushchev. Secretary Dillon said they would not agree to these suggestions.

TOP SECRET



The National Security Council:

Noted and discussed an oral report by the Acting Secretary of State on significant developments at the Geneva Conference.

6. THE SITUATION IN IRAQ

Mr. Gray inquired of Secretary Dillon whether he had anything to report on the work of the Interdepartmental Group on Iraq established by NSC action. Secretary Dillon said he could report only very briefly. While the Interdepartmental Group had been meeting, it had no further suggestions to make with respect to action at this time.

Secretary Dillon testified that the general feeling was that we had been making some progress in Iraq in recent days. For example, our differences with the Turks and with the Iranians as to the seriousness of the situation in Iraq have disappeared. Then secondly, the UAR has behaved far better than we had hoped. It was still our hope that Qasim could be prevailed upon to stand up to the Iraqi Communists. Thus, by and large, we felt slightly more optimistic about Iraq although the situation was certainly anything but rosy. The few odds and ends of improvement were not very significant in themselves but they provided some hope if looked at cumulatively.

Mr. Gray said that he understood that Ambassador Jernegan was about to engage in another interview with Prime Minister Qasim. Mr. Gray asked if we had instructed the Ambassador to inform Qasim of the serious view taken by the U.S. of increasing Communist influence in Iraq. Secretary Dillon and the President said that of course we had so informed Ambassador Jernegan.

The National Security Council:

Noted and discussed an oral report on the subject by the Acting Secretary of State, based upon the work of the Interdepartmental Group established by NSC Action No. 2068.

The National Security Council:

- a. Noted and discussed a suggestion by the Secretary of the Treasury for a study of the feasibility of U.S. assistance in increasing food production in under-developed areas of the Far East and Asia.
- b. Requested the Operations Coordinating Board to undertake urgently a study along the lines indicated in a above.

NOTE: The above action, as approved by the President, subsequently referred to the Executive Officer, OCB, for appropriate implementation.

S. Everett Gleason

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